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Kernan Awards Loan for Dekalb Molded Plastics, Inc. to Produce Recycled-Content Guardrail Bumpers

INDIANAPOLIS — With support from the Indiana Department of Commerce, a Butler company will soon begin producing highway guardrail blocks from recycled materials.

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that Commerce's Energy Policy Division has awarded Dekalb Molded Plastics, Inc. a \$475,000 Recycling Promotion and Assistance Fund (RPAF) loan to purchase equipment that will be used to produce the blocks from a composite of recycled high density polyethylene and recycled automotive tires.

"It's exciting to see Indiana companies like Dekalb Molded Plastics invest in manufacturing recycled-content products," said Kernan, who serves as director of the Department of Commerce. "In addition to reducing the amount of waste going to our landfills, this project creates good jobs for Hoosiers and valuable products that are needed nationwide."

Located in Dekalb County, Dekalb Molded Plastics is a custom injection molder of structural plastic parts. The company will supply the recycled-content guardrail blocks to Trinity Industries, Inc. of Dallas, Texas. The bumpers, which are approved by the Federal Highway Administration and mandated or encouraged by many states, will be installed all over the United States as substitutes for the wood blocks currently used on highway guardrails. Recycled-content composite blocks are lightweight and easier to install than the wooden version.

The RPAF loan will help Dekalb Molded Plastics make the \$950,000 investment to start producing the blocks. The company, which will hire 12 new employees for this project, expects to divert 675 tons of plastic and 550 tons of tires from area landfills in the first year of production. The process will allow for a total energy savings of more than 60 billion Btu's per year.

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The Recycling Promotion and Assistance Fund assists Indiana businesses in expanding current production capabilities or implementing new manufacturing processes to make recycled-content products or industrial feedstock. Zero-interest loans of up to \$500,000 are available per applicant, not to exceed 50 percent of eligible project costs, to purchase equipment needed for this manufacturing process.

The Indiana Recycling Energy Development Board, which meets quarterly, reviews loan and grant proposals and determines awards. The Indiana Department of Commerce's Energy Policy Division administers the program. For more information on this or other Commerce recycling programs, contact Sarah Carney or Tiffany Sorge at 317.232.8940 or visit the Web site at www.CommerceRecycles.in.gov.

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